

# PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORY

**Photography for Everyone.** In 1888, George Eastman, an American dry-plate manufacturer, revolutionized photography by marketing the Kodak camera. The Kodak was a simple snapshot camera that could be used by amateurs. It held a roll of film that made a hundred pictures. After a person had used up the film, he returned the camera with the film still inside to Eastman's company in Rochester, N.Y. The company developed the film and printed the pictures, and returned the camera with a new roll of film in it.

The first roll film consisted of light-sensitive gelatin coated onto a paper backing. After the film had been developed, the gelatin emulsion was transferred from the paper onto a piece of glass. Then prints were made. Transferring the emulsion was difficult, and required too much skill for amateur photographers.

In 1889, Eastman substituted a Celluloid base for the paper. Printing photographs became much easier because the gelatin emulsion did not have to be removed from the base. Persons who wished to develop and print their own pictures could buy processing kits. Other persons followed Eastman's slogan: "You press the button, we do the rest." Photography became an international hobby.

During the late 1800's and early 1900's, scientists made other improvements in the tools and processes of photography. They introduced the time-temperature method of developing film, which greatly simplified the development process. They improved camera lenses, developed a precision enlarger, and increased the light-sensitivity of film and printing papers.

In 1924, the Leica camera was marketed in Germany. This miniature camera takes 35-millimeter film, the size used in making motion pictures. Many persons used the camera to take *candid photographs* (pictures taken without the subject's knowledge). In 1929, the

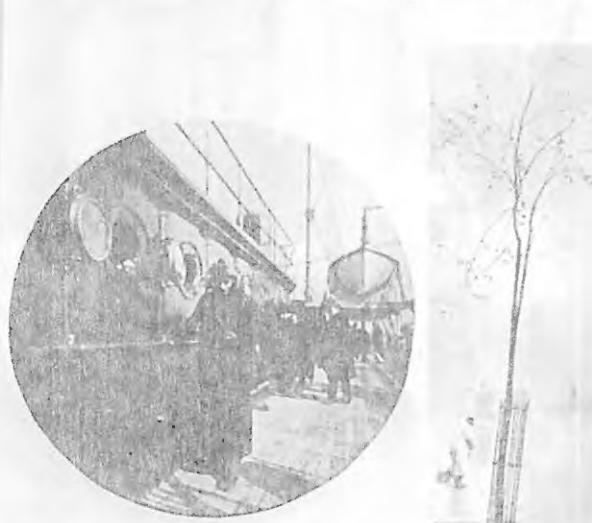
electric flashbulb was patented in Germany. Two years later, Harold E. Edgerton, an American engineer, developed electronic flash. Artificial lighting greatly increased the type of subjects that could be photographed.

As photography became more popular with amateur and professional photographers advanced photography in new ways. A French photographer, Jean-Eugène Auguste Atget, took photographs of Paris showing the city's people and its historic buildings and statues. In the United States, Alfred Stieglitz worked to establish photography as a creative art. In 1902, he and other photographers formed the Photo-Scession, a group active in promoting photography as an art until about 1910. One member, Edward Steichen, organized "The Family of Man" picture exhibit at New York City's Museum of Modern Art in 1955. It was one of the most popular exhibits ever held.

László Moholy-Nagy, a Hungarian who moved to the United States, made abstract photographs called *photograms*. He placed objects on a piece of print paper in the darkroom and exposed them with a flash light. The American photographers Paul Strand and Edward Weston took detailed close-up photographs. Among Strand's photographs are large details of machines. Weston revealed the beauty of such natural shapes as peppers and cabbages. Walker Evans and Dorothea Lange photographed poverty-stricken families in the South during the 1930's.

Henri Cartier-Bresson, a French photographer, used a miniature camera to capture "decisive moments" in people's lives. His success in recording fleeting events and emotions has greatly influenced photojournalism. Margaret Bourke-White, an American, also produced important works of photojournalism. Ansel Adams, also of the United States, specialized in photographing scenes of nature, especially the mountains and deserts of the West.

**Photography Today.** Cameras and photographic equipment are both becoming more and more advanced.



George Eastman House

George Eastman holds one of the first Kodak cameras. The camera, identical with the one that took this picture in 1890, produced a hundred round negatives.

Alfred Stieglitz led the movement for creative photography in the early 1900's. He created the atmosphere of "Spring Showers" in this 1902 photograph.

Edward Weston in his "Halved Cabbage" shows his style of emphasizing textures and sharp, clean lines.

Courtesy of The Art Institute of Chicago, Alfred Stieglitz Collection





- FAMOUS FIRSTS IN PHOTOGRAPHY**
- 1926 Joseph Nicéphore Niépce made the first permanent photo.
- 1839 Louis H. M. Daguerre announced his daguerreotype process, the first practical photographic method.
- 1839 William H. F. Talbot announced his wet-collodion process, the first positive process of making photographs.
- 1851 Frederick Scott Archer invented the wet-collodion five-positive process for making prints of a negative.
- 1853 Edwin Land introduced the Kodak camera.
- 1888 George Eastman invented the Kodak camera, which made photography available to millions of persons.
- 1924 The Leica camera went on the market, and started the trend of cameras.
- 1931 Harold E. Edgerton developed electronic flash.
- 1935 Eastman Kodak Company introduced Kodachrome film.
- 1942 Eastman Kodak introduced Kodacolor film.
- 1947 Edwin Land introduced his Polaroid Land Camera, featuring a new instant negative of 60-second photography.
- 1963 The Polaroid Corporation marketed a color film that developed itself in the camera in about 60 seconds.
- 1977 Polaroid introduced a home movie system that developed film instantly inside a cassette.

work. Actual photographs are necessary in the development of World War II battle scenes to a level of breaking the sound barrier. She took this photograph of Mach-10 speeds. Her subjects ranged from World War II battles to a test flight over the English Channel and Solent. She led the team that produced dynamic picture stories for major news magazines.

Arthur Siegel, an American free-lance photographer, has an important part in military

preparation of maps for any military action. These photographs are made with highly specialized cameras in airfields. The use of aerial photography to make maps of ground areas is called photogrammetry. Police in alpine areas, like the Caucasus, use aerial photography to make maps of terrain. The use of aerial photography to make maps of ground areas is called photogrammetry. Police in alpine areas, like the Caucasus, use aerial photography to make maps of ground areas. These cameras have built-in exposure meters which set the camera's controls (see Camera). Many cameras have built-in exposure meters which set the camera's controls (see Camera).

Photography is taking an increasing importance in many fields of science. Special high-speed cameras can show the tiny phenomena in flight. These cameras can also record information about the bullet as it leaves a gun. Underwater cameras track the currents of a swimmer. Ship, or jet, scientists made photography at high altitudes. When mounted on a balloon, infrared film that contracts when exposed to light can take enlarged pictures of tiny cells, and bacteria (see Microscope). Science Project: A microscope can take enlarged pictures of plants. A camera attached to a telescope, the camera provides detailed and permanent photographs of the stars and planets. When mounted on a balloon, infrared film that contracts when exposed to light can take enlarged pictures of tiny cells, and bacteria (see Microscope). Science Project:

After exposure is taken, the film is developed on the screen.

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